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During the month of July 2019, I undertook a four-week internship at Projects Abroad Human Rights Office (PAHRO), a legal clinic based in Cape Town. I worked as a full-time intern at PAHRO and also capitalised on the opportunity to explore the scenic surroundings of Cape Town. I would like to thank the Law Foundation of South Australia Inc for granting me the Human Rights Scholarship of \$3,636.00 to undertake this internship programme.

PAHRO is based primarily in Claremont. The outreach programs were based in Mitchell Plains, Vrygrond and Hanover Park and were held three times a week. Along with that the Social Justice component of PAHRO operated in Bonnytown boys prison and Vredulus girls safe home/prison. The purpose of the clinics was to provide free legal assistance to clients who are from low socio-economic statuses. PAHRO helps people access their rights and rehabilitate the incarcerated children through presentations and interactions with interns.

During my internship, I worked on many different legal matters, such as research, draft letters, draft summons, draft affidavits and acting in as a professional with confidentiality with all parties I had the opportunity to interact with. I worked under the supervision of 3 lawyers: Danielle Fills, an experienced lawyer in wills, estate and refugee matters; Fabian Pillay, who was the internship coordinating lawyer from PAHRO; and Sherwin Daniels. who was the head supervisor who oversaw most criminal matters. As an intern, I was given files which previous volunteers could not complete.

I worked with various matters ranging from:

1. Eviction orders
2. Divorce Summons
3. Domestic Violence issues
4. Rape victims
5. Refugee law
6. Employment law
7. Family law

8. Criminal law – attended court with my supervisor.

My internship was different to any other volunteer experience that I have undertaken in the past. It was hands on practice with clients and I added value towards the organisation to the best of my ability whilst being professional and confidential. This experience was invaluable as it helped me gain self-confidence and improve my knowledge on legal matters. Approximately 50 clients attended the clinic per week and clients were assisted accordingly. I have improved my ability to perform legal research, drafting legal documents and communication skills.

I was shocked by some components in their culture such as gang violence and the impact it causes on children. There were many legal implications that I observed like poverty, housing inadequacies, lack of wills and the disadvantages of living in townships. The challenges that the clients go through was an eye-opening experience. But despite all their hardships, the clients were friendly and loving people. Exposure to that environment has given me a new way of looking into life. I can say that I am now more empathic, confident and understanding towards my views.

Whilst we gained knowledge at the project interns experienced a great deal of adventure. We got to travel around Cape Town, eat traditional food, meet locals, visit markets and visit townships. I met people from all over the world and getting to know them was one of the highlights of my trip.



The Nelson Mandela day was during my stay and we participated in a Community day programme. We attended Hanover Park primary school and painted containers which will be used as study areas. This experience brought us closer together as a group.

Looking back at it all, I am grateful to have been given this opportunity by the Law Foundation. I will forever be grateful for the memories I made, the little change I made and to the friendships that will last forever. I was also lucky to have met a previous volunteer, Helena, who provided me with valuable insight about the project. Helena's knowledge of the internship helped me go into the project knowing what to expect and made me feel comfortable to travel and work in South Africa.

